

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SIL-01 AF-04 INR-05 CIAE-00
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 206053

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB, EG, US

SUBJECT:VISIT OF EGYPTIAN LABOR LEADER

1. MUSTAFA IBRAHIM MUSTAFA, SECRETARY OF INFORMATION OF THE EGYPTIAN FEDERATION OF LABOR, MET WITH PAT O'FARREL OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN LABOR CENTER AND ERNEST LEE, DIRECTOR OF AFL-CIO INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT DURING WEEK AUGUST 7-12 ON VISIT TO US. MUSTAFA RAISED ISSUE OF STATUS OF AALC ASSISTANCE TO EGYPTIAN TRADE UNIONS AND WAS TOLD THAT SUCH AID WOULD HAVE TO BE LINKED TO EFL AGREEMENT TO EXCHANGE VISITS WITH HISTADRUT.

2. IN MEETING WITH MUSTAFA, LEE STRESSED IMPORTANCE THAT EFL SHOW INDEPENDENCE FROM GOVERNMENT POLICY AND PIONEER
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ESTABLISHMENT OF FRATERNAL RELATIONS BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAELI UNIONS. HE ALSO URGED HIS VISITOR TO OBTAIN A REPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. COMMENT: IN DISCUSSION WITH NEA LABOR ADVISOR, LEE SAID THAT HE WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT FAVORABLE REPLY WOULD BE FORTHCOMING BEFORE CAMP DAVID MEETING. DEPARTMENT,

HOWEVER, IS LESS SANGUINE. OTHER AFL-CIO OFFICIALS FEEL
THAT THE AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT IS UNLIKELY TO SHOW MUCH
INTEREST IN EGYPTIAN LABOR MOVEMENT UNTIL NEW PROGRESS IS

MADE IN EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI RELATIONS. THEY ALSO DO NOT
EXPECT THE EFL TO PLAY AN INDEPENDENT ROLE. DESPITE
RESERVATIONS ABOUT EFFECTIVENESS OF LINKING AID TO EFL
TO ITS RELATIONS WITH THE HISTADRUT, DEPARTMENT FEELS
THIS REMAINS BILATERAL TRADE UNION ISSUE INTO WHICH WE
SHOULD NOT TRESPASS.
CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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